

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01
DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /070 W
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R 061711Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 690
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T RABAT 110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ET, SU, MO
SUBJECT: SUDANESE STRENGTHENING MILITARY CAPABILITIES

REF KHARTOUM 0038

1. WHILE MOROCCO APPEARS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD SUDAN POLITICALLY, WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT MOROCCO WILL PROVIDE ANY US MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THAT COUNTRY. FOR ONE THING, MOROCCANS NEED SUCH EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE. FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE FULLY SENSITIVE TO US LAWS CONCERNING TRANSFER OF US EQUIPMENT TO THIRD PARTIES, AND HAVE BEEN SCRUPULOUS ABOUT OBSERVING THESE RESTRICTIONS IN THE PAST. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT GOM, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAS CONSISTENTLY REFRAINED FROM ATTEMPTING TO TRANSFER USG MILITARY ITEMS EVEN TO NEEDY MAURITANIA, ITS CLOSE ALLY IN SAHARA ANTI-GUERRILLA EFFORTS.

2. IN LIGHT OF REFTTEL, WE HAVE REVIEWED USG MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO MOROCCO TO IDENTIFY ANY ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MIGHT HAVE A POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFER TO SUDAN. THE BULK OF THE EQUIPMENT ENVISAGED IN OUR PROGRAM HAS YET TO BE DELIVERED, AND MOROCCO IS
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THEREFORE IN SHORT SUPPLY WITH RESPECT TO US-ORIGIN ITEMS. FURTHERMORE, MOST OF THE US EQUIPMENT ALREADY DELIVERED, SUCH AS M-48 TANKS, IS NOT WELL-SUITED FOR ANTI-GUERRILLA WARFARE. MOROCCO COULD CONCEIVABLY CONSIDER OFFERING UP SMALL QUANTITIES OF US-PROVIDED MACHINE GUNS, BUT THESE WOULD NEED TO BE TAKEN FROM THE VEHICLES ON WHICH THEY ARE MOUNTED. IN THE CASE OF 50 CALIBRE MACHINE GUNS, THESE COULD NOT BE REPLACED FROM NEW US

PRODUCTION UNTIL 1979.

3. IF GOM WISHES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SUDAN, IT COULD PROBABLY PROVIDE OLDER FRENCH AND MOROCCAN-MANUFACTURED SMALL ARMS, HAVING RECENTLY RECEIVED MORE MODERN ONES FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES. TRUCKS ASSEMBLED IN MOROCCO, MILITARY CLOTHING, TENTAGE, MESS GEAR, AND BLANKETS ARE OTHER POSSIBILITIES.

4. MEANWHILE, SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE HAS ALSO MADE A PLEA FOR US SUPPORT FOR SUDAN. FOLLOWING SUDANESE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MANSOUR KHALID'S LATE DECEMBER VISIT TO MOROCCO, HE TOOK INITIATIVE WITH AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT SUDAN MIGHT WELL BECOME "ANOTHER ANGOLA" AND TO URGE THAT US FOCUS ON SITUATION WITH VIEW TO HELPING SUDAN BOLSTER ITS DEFENSES. HE STRESSED THAT SAUDI ARABIA COULD NOT CARRY THE FULL BURDEN.

5. SIGN OF CONTINUING MOROCCAN-SUDANESE DISCUSSIONS IS PRESENCE IN KHARTOUM OF DIRECTOR OF ROYAL CABINET BENSOUDA, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED BY NUMAYRI ON JANUARY 4.
ANDERSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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